

Date Mailed
September 19, 2000

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Citizens Communications Company of
Illinois for Certification as an Incumbent Local Exchange
Carrier to Provide Local Exchange Services

1132-NC-100

Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of
Illinois for Authority to Establish Rates

1132-TR-100

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

Comments Due:
September 28, 2000– Noon

FAX Due:
September 27, 2000– Noon

Address Comments To:
Lynda L. Dorr, Secretary to the Commission
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854
FAX (608) 266-3957

THIS IS A PROCEEDING to investigate to determine whether or not to grant the applications of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Illinois (CTC-IL) to be an authorized local exchange carrier and to adopt the rates of Verizon North Inc. (Verizon), in the Fairplay service area. Fairplay refers to the Wisconsin portion of the East Dubuque, Illinois, telephone exchange. CTC-IL is purchasing Fairplay from Verizon.

In its application, CTC-IL states that it has the technical expertise to provide the services for which it requests certification through its parent company, Citizens Communications Company (Citizens). Citizens has been providing telephone service since 1935 and operates the Rhinelander Telephone Company in Wisconsin. The Fairplay service area is part of 110 exchanges that CTC-IL is purchasing from Verizon in Illinois.

In terms of financial resources, Citizens had revenues for 1999 in excess of \$1 billion. Its bond ratings are A+ by Standard & Poor's and A2 by Moody's Investor Service. Its most recent SEC forms 10-K and 10-Q were attached to the application.

CTC-IL states that it will adopt Verizon's (called by its previous name, GTE, in the application) intrastate tariffs in effect at Fairplay at the time of purchase. Further, the application

requests that this Commission defer to the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding rates to be charged to Fairplay customers, noting that this would be consistent with historical treatment of this area by this Commission.

The Commission requests comments from any interested party on the following issues:

1. Shall the Commission authorize CTC-IL to be an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the Fairplay service Area? 2. Shall the Commission continue to defer to the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding rates charged within the Fairplay service area? 3. In the event that the Commission decides issue #2 in the negative, is it appropriate that the Commission approve the extant rates in Fairplay as the initial rates for CTC-IL at the time of transfer from Verizon? Any party who desires to file comments should submit an original and 15 copies as indicated in the box on page 1. Members of the public need only file an original. These comments must be received by noon on September 28, 2000. Comments by fax are due one day earlier. Fax filing cover sheets must state "Official Filing" and include the docket number and the number of pages (limit of 20 pages). File by one mode only.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions on the certification proceeding, docket 1132-NC-100, may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Ferris of the Commission staff at (608) 266-1124 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail: *ferrit@psc.state.wi.us*. Questions on the rate proceeding, docket 1132-TR-100, may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Gross of the Commission staff at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail: *grosst@psc.state.wi.us*.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission